

WATER IS LIFE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the sun barely peeks over the sky, millions of women and children across the developing world wake up and make their daily, dangerous walk in search of the necessity of life: water.

They walk for miles in water-scarce regions to a well or polluted river for water. During these long walks, they are often put at risk of sexual abuse and assault. Also, bad guys control the wells and abuse women in return for the sometimes polluted water.

The time-consuming search for water results in rape, pregnancy, child kidnapping, and high educational dropout rates. Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene prevents disease. It also improves the safety and security of women and children across the entire world.

It is encouraging to see our Nation and Congress recognizing water as the global security crisis that it is and the need to build capacity to clean water. With our God-given resources, we have it within our power and our duty to help others access clean water—the key to life.

And that is just the way it is.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today is the 29th World AIDS Day. Let us commemorate those who lost their lives and commit to reducing the 37,000 new HIV infections that occur each year in the United States.

In my hometown of Newark, New Jersey, new HIV cases have been rising among young people under the age of 25. According to experts, the rise in new HIV/AIDS cases among young people in Newark is linked to the opioid crisis.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion lately about the opioid crisis, but we forget that it is linked to so many other issues—mental health access, poverty, communicable disease, joblessness, and the list goes on.

Congress can help end the opioid crisis and the HIV/AIDS crisis here in the United States soon. But to do that, we must increase funding for healthcare access, mental health treatment, anti-poverty programs, disease control, education, and access to HIV PrEP medication.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL
McDERMOTT of HOMER, NEW YORK

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael McDermott of Homer, New York. Mike is a veteran of the United States Navy, having served from 1964 through 1967, including 13 months of service in Vietnam. When Mike returned home from the Navy and Vietnam, he became active in the Homer community serving as a village trustee for 6 years and mayor for 6 years.

Mike's true passion has been as an advocate for his fellow veterans through his service at the American Legion Post 465 in Homer where he has been a member for over 34 years. During his time with Post 465, Mike has served in many roles, including commander for 13 years. He also served as commander of the Cortland County American Legion.

Mike is also involved in State and national leadership for The American Legion. He serves on the National Security Council for The American Legion and with the National and New York American Legion Press Associations.

Most importantly, Mike continuously gives back to Cortland County's and Homer's veterans, hosting a veterans service fair and supporting veterans' causes throughout the village and county each and every year.

We are grateful to compassionate citizens like Michael McDermott throughout our communities, and we are grateful for their service and dedication to our Nation's veterans. Thank you to Michael McDermott from a giving and warm community. We appreciate his service.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World AIDS Day. The theme this year is Increasing Impact Through Transparency, Accountability, and Partnerships.

First, I would like to thank Leader PELOSI for her steadfast commitment to fighting HIV and AIDS and for guaranteeing strong United States leadership in this area.

As the cofounder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus with my good friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, we have seen significant progress that we have made in the global fight against HIV.

Year after year, Congress has come together in a bipartisan way to stop the spread of this disease. From PEPFAR and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria—which I was very proud to help write—to the Ryan White CARE Act and the Minority AIDS Initiative, the United States has been a global leader in committing the critical resources needed to end this disease both here at home and abroad.

Partly due to our efforts, over 20 million people around the world have ac-

cess to lifesaving antiretroviral treatment. Twenty million people getting lifesaving medicine is more than the population of the State of New York. So in memory of those who died much too soon, let's recommit ourselves to ending AIDS by 2030 and realizing an AIDS-free generation.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL
URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY

(Mr. DONOVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 70th anniversary of the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, also known as NUSTL.

Located in New York City, NUSTL has been a critical asset in protecting our homeland since 1947. It began as a lab to measure radioactive fallout. Now as part of the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, it has been transformed into a one-of-a-kind testing and evaluation laboratory for the first responder community.

I have had the opportunity to visit NUSTL and saw firsthand the impressive work being done on a daily basis. It is constantly developing and testing new tools that ensure the brave women and men on our front lines can protect our homeland, and it is critical they have the resources needed to continue their innovative work.

I thank the dedicated women and men of NUSTL for their services. Congratulations on this important anniversary. I look forward to continuing to celebrate your remarkable accomplishments for years to come.

OPPOSE SENATE TAX BILL

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Senate's version of the tax reform bill because this bill will hurt the central coast in California.

By fully repealing the State and local tax deduction, 177,000 households in my district that deduct an average of \$23,000 each year will be hurt.

By repealing the student loan interest deduction, low- and middle-income students in my district will find college further out of reach and will be hurt.

By allowing individual tax cuts to expire on people earning less than \$75,000, over 140,000 households in my district will see their taxes go up and they will be hurt.

Now, with confirmation that the tax cuts will not pay for themselves but will add over \$1 trillion to our debt, this tax reform bill will be a tax burden bill not only for my constituents in my district, but for all of our constituents in our Nation. Worse, this bill will hurt

not only my two daughters, but all of our sons and daughters.

That is why I oppose the Senate bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

NO FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR SANCTUARY CITIES

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, over a year ago, Kate Steinle, a young woman in San Francisco, was murdered by a criminal illegal alien and died in the arms of her father.

At that time, as chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations, I swore that I would do whatever it would take to cut off every dollar of Federal money to every sanctuary city in America.

I persuaded the previous Attorney General to put that policy in place. Thankfully, with President Trump's election and the appointment of our new Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, they moved aggressively to enforce existing laws, secure our border, and restore respect for the rule of law in this great Nation.

It is appalling and outrageous that a jury in San Francisco acquitted the killer who murdered Kate Steinle. This should renew our zeal as the Representatives of the people of this country to restore respect for the rule of law by cutting off every dollar of Federal money to every sanctuary city in America and to do whatever it takes to protect our citizens from criminal aliens who enter this country illegally and then commit crimes against the people of this great Nation.

What happened in San Francisco is an outrage, and I will not rest until we cut off every dollar to every sanctuary city in the United States of America.

TAX SCAM

(Mr. HUFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax scam picks clear winners and losers, yet our colleagues are rushing it through Congress faster than President Trump can retweet British racists.

Let's be clear: the winners in this tax scam are the country's wealthiest, including Donald Trump, his family, and his billionaire cronies in his Cabinet. Meanwhile, students, middle class families, homeowners, and seniors across this country are the losers. They are left holding the bag.

Californians get an especially raw deal because my Republican colleagues want to impose an unfair double tax on the State and local taxes that we pay.

There is more bad news for Californians. Homeowners will be hit by a new cap on mortgage interest deductions,

students will have to start paying taxes on student loan interest, graduate students will lose tax-free tuition waivers, and biotech companies who focus on ultra rare diseases will see their tax credit disappear.

The Republican tax bill is unbelievably bad and historically unpopular, for good reason, but it is not too late for my Republican colleagues to stop it.

REMEMBERING ROSA PARKS

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rosa Parks, who, 62 years ago today, changed the face of the United States.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused a bus driver's orders to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This simple act led to a bus boycott that helped to energize the civil rights movement.

Reflecting on that day, Rosa Parks once said: "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

She didn't give up. She didn't give in. Rosa Parks reminds us that we all must never, never give in when faced with injustice. Her brave actions have inspired all of us. Each and every one of us have an opportunity to stand up, sit down, or kneel for what is right.

It is because of civil rights champions like Rosa Parks that future generations can grow up in a nation that is free and fair for all.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN BAD TAX POLICY

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax plan that provides massive, permanent tax cuts to the largest corporations and tax increases for millions of middle class Americans is bad tax policy.

Let's be honest about what it does. This \$1.5 trillion tax cut will trigger cuts to domestic programs in the amount of \$150 billion every year, including \$25 billion in cuts to Medicare, with 55 million Americans who rely on it being put at risk if this bill becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough that this tax policy favors the largest corporations over middle class Americans, but to effect these kinds of massive cuts by tricking the American people in order to try to do it is shameful.

We have to defeat this bill, prevent these massive cuts, and protect the 55 million Americans on Medicare from a \$25 billion cut.

SALT DEDUCTION

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote from one of my colleagues from California: "Eliminating the State and local tax deduction would assure that almost all of the bill's tax cuts would be distributed to other States, leaving California with the bill."

That was from my Republican colleague, DARRELL ISSA.

Mr. Speaker, he was right on this. The Republican tax plan is cruel in so many ways. But perhaps the worst provision specifically targets States like California, New York, and New Jersey.

Our States have stepped into the breach left by the Federal Government. We have raised taxes to pay for infrastructure. We have raised taxes to pay for hospitals. We have raised taxes to pay for schools.

Now the Republicans want to punish us?

Mr. Speaker, this is a political game, plain and simple. Californians are smart enough to see through it.

FACING A CRISIS IN OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, in Federal district court in Washington, Michael Flynn pled guilty to lying to the FBI, a felony. It is a strong indication that he is cooperating with the Mueller investigation concerning Russia and its involvement with President Trump and his team and the election of the President of the United States.

We are facing a crisis in our country with our Constitution, our form of government, and the rule of law. I have filed a bill to amend the Constitution to not allow pardons of people from any President's campaign team or family. I am also the sponsor of a bill that says you can't fire a special counsel without cause. The special counsel would have the right to seek redress in court.

We must be ready to protect Bob Mueller and the integrity of the rule of law in this country, for I foresee this President firing him, as Nixon did in the Saturday Night Massacre.

We are repeating the horrors of Watergate and the shredding of our Constitution, common sense, and decency.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, as folks head back to their districts—and I will be doing so shortly—it is important to take a look at some things that have been rather important here in our country.